CALHOUN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Health Sciences Division

Dental Hygiene Program

Eligibility Criteria

Students enrolled in the dental hygiene program are required to successfully complete both academic and clinical requirements. The purpose of the Eligibility Criteria is to delineate the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor skills deemed minimally necessary for admission, progression, and graduation, and for the provision of safe and effective client care.

The Alabama Community College System endorses the Americans' with Disabilities Act. Prior to enrollment in the dental hygiene program students are provided the Eligibility Criteria. If a student cannot demonstrate the following skills and abilities, it is the responsibility of the student to request appropriate reasonable accommodations through the Student Disability Services Office.

Sensory Perception

a) Visual
    i) Observe and discern subtle changes in physical conditions and the environment
    ii) Visualize different color spectrums and color changes
    iii) Read cursive writing
    iv) Read at varying distances
    v) Read data/information displayed on monitors/equipment
b) Auditory
    i) Distinguish muffled sounds heard through a stethoscope
    ii) Hear and discriminate high and low frequency sounds produced by the body and the environment
c) Tactile
    i) Discern tremors, vibrations, pulses, textures, temperature, shapes, size, location and other physical characteristics
d) Olfactory
    i) Detect body odors and odors in the environment

Communication/Interpersonal Relationships

a) Effectively communicate with others, from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds
b) Work effectively in groups
c) Work effectively independently
d) Discern and interpret nonverbal communication
e) Express one's ideas and feelings clearly
f) Communicate with others accurately in a timely manner
g) Obtain communications from a computer

Cognitive/Critical Thinking

a) Consistently and dependably engage in the process of critical thinking in order to formulate and implement safe and ethical patient care decisions in a variety of health care settings
b) Show problem-solving aptitude sufficient to organize and complete tasks safely, accurately, and within an assigned time frame
c) Correctly perform simple mathematical computations
d) Carry out detailed, simple to complex, instructions

Motor Function

a) Handle small delicate equipment/objects without extraneous movement, contamination or destruction
b) Move, position, turn, transfer, assist with lifting or lift and carry clients without injury to clients, self, or others
c) Coordinate hand/eye movements to manipulate instruments and equipment with proficiency
d) Reach and position overhead equipment
e) Stand, sit, bend, walk, or otherwise move about for 8 hours in a clinical setting performing physical activities without jeopardizing the safety of the client, self, or others
f) Flex, abduct, and rotate all joints freely
g) Respond rapidly to emergency situations
h) Work in a confined space and remain in one location for an extended period of time
i) Calibrate/use equipment
j) Perform CPR and physical assessment
k) Operate a computer

Professional Behavior

a) Convey caring, respect, sensitivity, tact, compassion, empathy, tolerance and a healthy attitude toward others
b) Perform safe, effective patient care for clients
c) Work in a clinical environment which involves exposure to persons with physical and mental disabilities, pain, stress, and communicable disease, blood and body fluids, hazardous substances, odors and irritating particles
d) Meet qualifications for licensure as stipulated by the Alabama Board of Dentistry
e) Adapt to changing environments and situations
f) Remain free of chemical dependency and reportable communicable diseases
g) Provide patient care in an appropriate time frame
h) Accept responsibility and accountability of one's actions
i) Seek supervision/consultation in a timely manner
j) Examine and modify one's own behavior when it interferes with patient care or learning.

Safety is paramount in all health programs. Students shall not pose a direct threat to themselves or others. Direct threat is defined as a substantial risk of harm based on facts and that cannot be eliminated or reduced to an acceptable level through reasonable accommodation. A direct threat also includes an individual who knowingly engages in unsafe practices or disregards safety rules or procedures which results in a substantial risk of harm to themselves or others or in a substantial risk of property damage.